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together without distinction, until it becomes the hardest of tasks to determine, in the Bible, exactly where one work of literature ends and another begins. The morphological analysis of Scripture thus urgently required is precisely the purpose to which I have applied myself in the present work: it is "An Account of the leading forms of Literature represented in the Sacred Writings." And its underlying principle is that a clear grasp of the outer literary form is an essential guide to the inner manner and spirit (pp. v, vi).

The truth of this proposition must be admitted by all, and therefore the *literary* study of the Bible becomes an obvious duty along with its devotional, theological, and historical study. For those who wish to apprehend the Bible in its literary characteristics, Professor Moulton's work offers a satisfactory, indeed the only, guide. And no one can consider himself well instructed in the Bible who has not gone carefully over the ground traversed by this book. It is a simple statement of fact that through such study the Scriptures become much more intelligible, more attractive, and more influential. The radical difficulty at the present hour is that the Bible is viewed by many people from a fundamentally wrong standpoint. The corrective for this is a thorough historical and literary study of this literature. It is a matter for sincere congratulation and gratitude that both these branches of study are now made possible for all in the many excellent works for this purpose which are from time to time appearing.

In this new edition Professor Moulton has made many improvements. The book is larger by some forty pages than the first edition, though this does not indicate the amount of increased matter, as the whole work has been reset and contains more words to the page. Two additional indexes of much value appear at the end. The binding and general appearance of the book have also been improved, while the price has not been increased.

C. W. V.

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**A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Books of Samuel.**

By PROFESSOR HENRY P. SMITH, D.D. *International Critical Commentary*. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xxxix + 421. \$3, net.

The books of Samuel are among the most interesting and important in the entire range of the historical writings of the Old Testament. The period covered is that which saw the passage from the disorganization of the age of settlement in Canaan to the firmer structure of the monarchy. It includes the activity of three of Israel's greatest heroes,

Samuel, Saul, and David. The language and style in which the careers of these heroes are described cannot be surpassed elsewhere in the Old Testament for clearness, simplicity, vigor, and beauty. Some of the narrations, such as the story of Samuel and Eli, the combat of David and Goliath, or the revolt of Absalom, are among the most familiar and impressive in all Scripture.

On the other hand, no books of the Old Testament have suffered more in the course of the transmission of the text. They are full of difficult and delicate textual problems, before which the scholar not seldom stands in uncertainty and dismay. Since the questions relating to sources and the critical analysis of documents have come to the front, no books of the Old Testament have presented more baffling and unsatisfactory materials for the application of critical principles, unless those of the middle books of the Hexateuch be excepted. The various documents exist there, but their lines of cleavage and their relations are puzzling.

The commentator on Samuel, therefore, has no easy task. He must be a master of textual and literary criticism, as well as a man of piety, appreciative of good literature, warm-hearted, with sympathetic as well as scientific insight into the motives and impulses of the men of old Israel. Otherwise his work will be one-sided and incomplete, either learned and dull, or edifying and superficial.

In estimating the contribution of Professor Smith to the knowledge of the books of Samuel, two things should be remembered: (1) the design of this series of commentaries is to be, above all, "critical," *i. e.*, it is to represent the foremost modern scientific scholarship in the biblical field, and is not to be, primarily, either attractive or edifying; (2) these two books are treated in one volume of moderate size, though in bulk they are more than twice as large as Judges, which has an entire volume of the series to itself. It requires extraordinary condensation of matter to compress the necessary comment on these wonderfully rich books into this volume, and the author may be excused for brevity and conciseness, even when in some instances they balk our expectation by their dry and meager contributions.

So the volume is for the student who proposes to master the books of Samuel as literary and historical contributions to Israel's life. Much is made of textual criticism. Careful attention is bestowed on the analysis of the sources. Ample references are given to the work of scholars of all countries and times who have contributed to a scientific knowledge of the books. Professor Smith seems to have ransacked the libraries with great diligence for everything pertinent

to his subject. To show how largely the critical side of his task has occupied him, it is sufficient to note that he does not refer to Kirkpatrick's two modest volumes on Samuel in the Cambridge Bible, which are preëminently edifying and interpretative, though built on a real basis of scholarship, if somewhat belated. To Professor Smith "the only help," "in English," "to the understanding of this part of the Bible which deserves mention, is Driver's *Notes on the Hebrew Text of the Books of Samuel*." In this statement one has his point of view.

To say that this critical work is well done is to say what everyone knows who is acquainted with Professor Smith's previous contributions to scientific biblical and oriental study. Superior as have been the scholars who have devoted themselves to the study of the books of Samuel—and one need mention only Wellhausen, Driver, and Budde to illustrate this—Professor Smith shows himself able to digest their work and contribute something of his own to carry forward the investigation, in a solid and original fashion, to a higher point. This volume will remain for a long time one of the most vigorous, scientific, and acute contributions to the critical study of the books of Samuel—a conspicuous ornament of American biblical scholarship.

G. S. G.

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**A Manual of Sunday-School Methods.** By REV. ADDISON PINNEO FOSTER, D.D., Secretary of the American Sunday-School Union. Philadelphia: The American Sunday-School Union, 1899. Pp. 316. \$0.75.

There are not a few excellent books on Sunday-school management and instruction. Among these are Trumbull's *Teachers and Teaching*, Boynton's *The Model Sunday School*, Wells' *Sunday-School Success*, Schauffler's *Ways of Working*, Hurlbut's *Graded Sunday Schools*, Groser's *Sunday-School Teachers' Manual*; and with respect to the psychological and pedagogical features of Sunday-school work, Baldwin's *Mental Development in the Child and the Race*, Harris' *Psychologic Foundations of Education*, James' *Briefer Course in Psychology* and *Talks to Teachers on Psychology*, Compayré's *Lectures on Teaching and Intellectual and Moral Development of the Child*, Preyer's *Mental Development of the Child*, Froebel's *Education of Man*, Harrison's *Study of Child Nature*, DuBois' *Point of Contact in Teaching*.

If these works, and some others which might be named, have not set forth the ideal in Sunday-school methods and teaching, they at